

EDUCATORS GET AN INSIDE LOOK AT PARRIS ISLAND

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Just like recruits, educators are rushed off the bus and onto the yellow footprints of receiving barracks.



The educators quickly learn the proper way to speak to their drill instructors and stand in formation.

PARRIS ISLAND, SC.—Without signing on the dotted line, most civilians never get the chance to experience what it's like to be a Marine Corps recruit. But thanks to the Educators Workshop Program, boot camp became a reality for a select few.

The Educator Workshops, which take place within the 4th Marine Corps District four times a year, give educators and other influencers an inside look at how the Marines of tomorrow are molded.

“This is an opportunity for High school educators and influencers to get a birds eye view of recruit training,” said Capt. Christian Devine, 4MCD Headquarters public affairs officer. “It is an education process. We are trying to demystify the misconceptions about recruit training. We want to show them how we mold young citizens into U.S. Marines.”

Educators are taken from cities and towns all over the district and invited to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. Over the course of four days, educators are shown how boot camp works and can witness the transformation from recruit to Marine, a 13 week process.

“You’re training these guys for battle as best you can without



Autumn Shelton, from Hilliard Ohio, shoots the M16-A2 for the first time at the unknown distance course.



During the Crucible, educators witnessed pugil stick bouts by recruits.

actually taking them there,” said Damian Loveless, Calloway County High School Science Teacher and workshop attendee. “It looks like your doing a great job. You’re being rough enough on them, and not just candy coating everything.”

The schedule for an Educator Workshop begins on Tuesday afternoon at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort SC., where the educators arrive and are given a tour of the air station.

On day two, they are taken to MCRD Parris Island for their first glimpse of boot camp life. Just like recruits arriving on the island, educators are taken straight to the yellow footprints for a mock receiving process, complete with motivated drill instructors. There, educators get a first hand look at what recruits go through as they first step foot upon the island.

“When they first get here they’re real lost and just look new and don’t really know what was going on,” said Sgt. Jamie Kilroy, Drill Instructor for the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. “But after just three days, they definitely know what we do and how we do it, why it’s done and what the complete outcome is of the training.”

After going through receiving, educators are given several briefings about Parris Island to familiarize them with the events they would see throughout the week.

They then proceeded to the Crucible, a two and a half day event designed to teach Marine recruits how to handle sleep deprivation as well as combat situations and problem solving.

Many of the educators felt seeing how boot camp is run changed their perspective of the Marines, and of the military altogether.

During the course of the workshop, educators are also taken to see the gas chamber, the confidence course, the unknown distance course, as well as recruit squad bays, where recruits live during their three months of training.

“When I got here, I saw just how hard and just how much dedication a recruit has to have to make it through. It fills me with pride knowing there’s a bunch of young people out here this dedicated, who will put themselves through this kind of training just to serve their country. It really kind of breaks you up a little bit,” said Jim Bulliet, of WDRD 41 Fox News, Louisville, KY.

But the trip isn’t all business. The educators also got a chance to socialize with each other and see how Marines act when the uniform is off, by taking them out to dinner in the local area, and even a karaoke night at the hotel. This social element of the workshop helped educators to see Marines are regular people who like to have fun.

Overall, the educators who attend the workshops leave with a different aspect of the Marine Corps, and of the military in general. After seeing how recruit training works and how recruits live, they can better understand what it takes to earn the title.

“I think it takes a commitment to joining and then I don’t think people really know what they’re getting into because it seems so difficult,” said Stephanie Pettit, French teacher at Hilliard Darby High School in Ohio. “When you get here, its survival of the fittest, and you have to reach down inside you and find something that you didn’t know you had.”

Jim added “It takes a dedication and really a love of this kind of life. I’ve learned a lot about Marines since I have been in here in just the 4 days. I would like to stay longer.”

If you would like more information on how to become part of an educator workshop, contact your local Marine recruiter. They will begin the administrative process required to make you part of the program.



At the obstacle course, educators looked on as recruits maneuvered their way through many challenges including the ‘run, jump, swing’.



During the day movement course, the importance of teamwork was demonstrated as the squad leader waited for his fireteam to advance forward.